

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1544
INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9300

DEPT FOR ST. MARS; PEKING FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: RSS SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS - USLO

REF: HONG KONG 8613

1. THIS REPRESENTS THE THIRD AND FINAL MESSAGE OUTLINING A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE AM-BASSADOR, DCM, ADMIN/COUNSELOR, AS WELL AS THE SENIOR RSO AT USLO DURING A RECENT INSPECTION OF THE SECURITY OPERATIONS AT THAT MISSION. THE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED HEREIN FALL INTO A THIRD CATEGORY ON WHICH THERE WERE GENERAL DISCUSSIONS, AND ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A BASIC CONSENSUS, THESE RECOMMENDATIONS MET WITH SOME RESERVATIONS WHICH ARE BASED PRIMARILY UPON TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND WILL HAVE TO BE FURTHER EXAMINED ON THE VISIT OF THE RESPONSIBLE TECHNICAL OFFICER (OIC/RTC).

(A) THE RESS SUGGESTS THAT A TECHNICAL SITE SURVEY SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE OIC/RTC TO SELECT AND DETERMINE THE BEST SUITED ELECTRONIC ALARM SYSTEM TO COVER THE DRIVEWAY AREA BETWEEN THE EST FACE OF THE USLO BUILDING AND THE PERIMETER WALL RUNNING PARALLEL TO THAT SIDE OF THE BUILDING. IF TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE POST.

(B) FURTHER THE OIC AND THE RESPONSIBLE RSO AT THE USLO SHOULD FURTHER EXPLORE THE PRACTICALITY OF INSTALL-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 09300 090416Z

ING AN ALARM SYSTEM WHICH DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS WOULD

COVER THE EXTERNAL SPACE AT THE REAR OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND TO THE FRONT OF THE GARAGE BUILDINGS. THIS PROPOSITION MUST BE FURTHER EXAMINED AND MAY BE CONTINGENT UPON THE MOVEMENT OF SERVANTS IN THIS AREA DURING THE EARLY NIGHT HOURS.

(C) THE ENTRANCE GATES AT THE USLO COMPOUND SHOULD BE CLOSED DURING A FIXED TIME AFTER C.O.B. AND REOPENED IN THE MORNING TO ACCOMMODATE THE FIRST EMPLOYEE ARRIVALS FOR THE OPENING OF BUSINESS.

(D) ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OFFICE SPACE MAY PRECLUDE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RECOMMENDATION, NEVERTHELESS THERE SHOULD BE A CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT MADE TO MORE EFFECTIVELY SEGREGATE THE LOCAL STAFF FROM THE OFFICES WHERE CLASSIFIED MATERIALS ARE HANDLED AND SENSITIVE CONVERSATIONS HELD.

(E) THE SYSTEM OF BARRIER AND CONTROL POINTS PUT IN THE LOBBY ENTRANCE AND THE INTERNAL OFFICES OF THE BUILDING AND STAIRWELLS TO THE SECOND FLOOR ARE BELOW THE NORMAL PROTECTIVE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AT OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS IN THE EA REGION. SOME RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES WILL INITIATE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE INTERNAL TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN THE LOBBY, BUT THESE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS ONLY PRELIMINARY STEPS TO ESTABLISH A MORE DEFENSIVE RECEPTION POINT AND MORE EFFECTIVE INTERNAL CONTROLS. THE OFTEN HEARD CLICHE THAT "PEKING IS A SPECIAL CASE" IS PERSUASIVE BUT OVERUSED AND NOT CONVINCING IN THE FACE OF PRESENT DAY SECURITY SITUATIONS.

(F) AT AN EARLY DATE THE TECHNICAL OFFICER, SEABEE, THE RSO AND ADMIN/COUNSELOR IN PEKING SHOULD UNDERTAKE A SURVEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELECTING AN AREA FROM WHICH TO CONSTRUCT AN ACCESS POINT FROM AN INTERNAL LOCATION ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE USLO TO THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT A PULL DOWN STAIRCASE COULD BE INSTALLED. THE PRESENT OUTSIDE ACCESS IS NOT SUITABLE FOR NEITHER ROUTINE NOR EMERGENCY USE. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION AND SHOULD BE AGGRESSIVELY CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 09300 090416Z

TO FINAL IMPLEMENTATION.

2. THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN DELAYED DURING A PERIOD WHICH MUST BE PREOCCUPATION OF USLO WITH MORE CRITICAL MATTERS CREATED BY THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE CATASTROPHE. HOWEVER, THE RSS URGES THAT ALTHOUGH ACTION ON THE TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE DELAYED, THE MOMENTUM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED UNTIL EACH RECOMMENDATION IS IMPLEMENTED OR RE-

JECTED FOR GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASON. IN RETROSPECT,
THE RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVEN MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
HAVE A CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED VALIDITY BOTH DURING ROUTINE
SITUATIONS OR EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.
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